IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An improved golf club fitting system for fitting a set of golf clubs to a player comprising the steps:

measuring a player's physical dimensions at least including grip strength of the player's hand;

selecting a representative golf club having a specific dead weight based on the measured grip strength of the player's hand ~~equal to the total weight of the representative golf club;~~ said dead weight being directly proportional to the player's grip strength, specifically that the dead weight of the golf club is greater when the player's grip strength is greater and vice versa;

recording the club length of the representative golf club;

determining the swing weight of the representative golf club;

computing a balance index (BI) for the representative golf club by dividing the dead weight (DW) by the numerical value of the swing weight (SW) (DW/SW = BI); ~~and~~

using ~~comparing~~ said balance index (BI) determined for the representative golf club to ~~said dead weight of the representative golf club to~~ determine alternatively the head heavy and head light deviation for the representative golf club; and

generally corresponding balance index and dead weight values determined for said representative golf club to ~~for~~ at least some of the other golf clubs in a set of golf clubs such that the system user can generally match different iron and wood golf clubs to the representative golf club thereby creating a generally ideal matched set of golf clubs for the player.

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2. (currently amended) The improved golf club fitting system of claim 1 further comprising the step of conducting a player profile interview with a player to collect player information at least including physical limitations, right/left hand player, current playing ability, player's interpretation of their game and the player's goals for their game and the fitting session.[;]

3. (original) The improved golf club fitting system of claim 1 wherein said step of measuring a player's physical dimensions further comprises measuring at least the player's middle finger length, palm-to-wrist crease length, grip strength, player's height, ground to palm distance and ground to knuckle of player's longest finger.

4. (currently amended) The improved golf club fitting system of claim 1 further comprising the steps of determining a player's current equipment and the player's likes/dislikes on club aesthetics and feel, selecting a current favorite golf club via player inquiry, recording the club length, shaft frequency, dead weight and ~~of club,~~ swing weight of said current favorite golf club and the corresponding balance index ~~shaft flex~~ of the current favorite golf club and using ~~comparing~~ the recorded data of said current favorite golf club to select ~~with~~ said representative golf club having a generally similar club length, shaft frequency, dead weight and swing weight thereby acting to identify and assist the user in selecting the correct club set for the player and further to act as a guideline for narrowing of scope of acceptable club choices for the player.

5. (original) The improved golf club fitting system of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining the preferred club head and club shaft configuration for the player at least factoring recommended shaft length taken from applicable fitting chart, shaft material options available, adjustments due to player flexibility, swing tempo, and shaft loading effects and additional grip weight due to size recommendations.

~~6.~~ 6 (original) The improved golf club fitting system of claim 1 wherein said step of

selecting a representative golf club comprises selecting a test golf club having a determined dead weight, swing weight and balance, said determined dead weight, swing weight and balance calculated via said determining step, said test golf club having a club head including adjustable weighting means and adjustable weight positioning means, said test golf club further having shaft length adjustment means such that the weight and balance of said club head of said test golf club and the length of said shaft of said test golf club are adjustable to fit the player's determined swing characteristics.

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~~6.~~ (canceled).

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~~7.~~ (currently amended) The improved golf club fitting system of claim ~~5~~ wherein the shaft length and the head weight of said test golf club is adjustable via a plurality of shaft extensions which are designed to releasably connect to the top end of the test golf club and are made in a series of progressively lengthened units such as the one-inch extension and the one and one-half inch extension, said head weights adapted to be releasably mounted into the club head of the test golf club, said head weights being in progressively heavier units such as the ¼ ounce weight and the ½ ounce weight such that the precise weight and shaft length for said test golf club can be set so that the player and fitter can determine the best fitting club for the player by finding the best fit shaft length and dead weight for the best fitting club and use the resulting balance index and dead weight figures to fit the rest of the desired set.

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~~8.~~ (original) The improved golf club fitting system of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing an adjustable lie board including a base plate on which is pivotably mounted a lie plate which is angle and attitude adjustable relative to said base plate, an angle readout device mounted on said base plate adjacent said lie plate operative to permit reading of the angle of said lie plate relative to said base plate, said adjustable lie board enabling use of said representative golf club during the angle determination section of the fitting process, with angle changes being made via said

adjustable lie board instead of through the use of multiple test clubs with slightly different club head angles.

10 ~~9.~~ (original) The improved golf club fitting system of claim 9 ~~8~~ further comprising the steps of placing marking tape on the sole of the club head of said representative golf club, having the player hit at least one shot off of said lie plate of said adjustable lie board, recording the position of the impact mark on said marking tape via said hitting of at least one shot, adjusting the angle of said lie plate relative to said base to bring the angle of said lie plate into general alignment with the angle of the player's swing and repeating said hitting, recording and adjusting steps until the impact mark on said marking tape is generally centered on the club sole in relation to the heel and toe of the club head of said representative golf club.

11 ~~10.~~ (canceled).

12 ~~11.~~ (canceled).

13 ~~12.~~ (currently amended) An improved golf club fitting system for fitting a set of golf clubs to a player comprising the steps:

measuring a player's physical dimensions at least including grip strength of the player's hand;

selecting a representative golf club having a specific dead weight based on the measured grip strength of the player's hand ~~equal to the total weight of the representative golf club,~~ said dead weight being directly proportional to the player's grip strength, specifically that the dead weight of the golf club is greater when the player's grip strength is greater and vice versa;

recording the club length of the representative golf club;

determining the swing weight of the representative golf club;

computing a balance index (BI) for the representative golf club by dividing the dead weight (DW) by the numerical value of the swing weight (SW) (DW/SW = BI);

using ~~comparing~~ said balance index (BI) determined for the representative golf club to ~~said dead weight of the representative golf club to~~ determine alternatively the head heavy and head light deviation for the representative golf club; and

generally corresponding balance index and dead weight values determined for said representative golf club to ~~for~~ at least some of the other golf clubs in a set of golf clubs such that the system user can generally match different iron and wood golf clubs to the representative golf club thereby creating a generally ideal matched set of golf clubs for the player;

providing an adjustable lie board including a base plate on which is pivotably mounted a lie plate which is angle and attitude adjustable relative to said base plate, an angle readout device mounted on said base plate adjacent said lie plate operative to permit reading of the angle of said lie plate relative to said base plate, said adjustable lie board enabling use of said representative golf club during the angle determination section of the fitting process, with angle changes being made via said adjustable lie board instead of through the use of multiple test clubs with slightly different club head angles;

placing marking tape on the sole of the club head of said representative golf club;

having the player hit at least one shot off of said lie plate of said adjustable lie board;

recording the position of the impact mark on said marking tape via said hitting of at least one shot;

adjusting the angle of said lie plate relative to said base to bring the angle of said lie plate into general alignment with the angle of the player's swing; and

repeating said hitting, recording and adjusting steps until the impact mark on said marking tape is generally centered on the club sole in relation to the heel and toe of the club head of said representative golf club.

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~~13.~~ (currently amended) An improved golf club fitting system for fitting a set of golf clubs to a player comprising the steps:

measuring a player's physical dimensions at least including grip strength of the player's hand;

selecting a representative golf club having a specific dead weight based on the measured grip strength of the player's hand ~~equal to the total weight of the representative golf club,~~ said dead weight being directly proportional to the player's grip strength, specifically that the dead weight of the golf club is greater when the player's grip strength is greater and vice versa, said representative golf club comprising a test golf club having a determined dead weight, swing weight and balance, said determined dead weight, swing weight and balance calculated via said determining step, said test golf club having a club head including adjustable weighting means and adjustable weight positioning means, said test golf club further having shaft length adjustment means such that the weight and balance of said club head of said test golf club and the length of said shaft of said test golf club are adjustable to fit the player's determined swing characteristics;

providing a plurality of shaft extensions and a plurality of head weights for said test golf club, said plurality of shaft extensions adapted to releasably connect to the top end of the test golf club and which are made in a series of progressively lengthened units such as the one-inch

extension and the one and one-half inch extension, said head weights adapted to be releasably mounted into the club head of the test golf club, said head weights being in progressively heavier units such as the ¼ ounce weight and the ½ ounce weight such that the precise weight and shaft length for said test golf club can be set so that the player and fitter can determine the best fitting club for the player by finding the best fit shaft length and dead weight for the best fitting club and use the resulting balance index and dead weight figures to fit the rest of the desired set;

computing a balance index (BI) for the representative golf club by dividing the dead weight (DW) by the numerical value of the swing weight (SW) (DW/SW = BI); and

using ~~comparing~~ said balance index (BI) determined for the representative golf club to ~~said dead weight of the representative golf club to~~ determine alternatively the head heavy and head light deviation for the representative golf club; and

generally corresponding balance index and dead weight values determined for said representative golf club to ~~for~~ at least some of the other golf clubs in a set of golf clubs such that the system user can generally match different iron and wood golf clubs to the representative golf club thereby creating a generally ideal matched set of golf clubs for the player.